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Letter dated 17 January 2003 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

As you may be aware, South Africa is the chair of the Kimberley Process. It has been brought to our attention that the Security Council is considering a draft resolution in support of the Kimberley Process certification scheme for rough diamonds, which was adopted in Interlaken, Switzerland on 5 November 2002.

We welcome the Security Council's interest in this matter. However, we would like to request that the Council consider delaying the adoption of the resolution until the General Assembly has received a report on the Interlaken declaration on the Kimberley Process certification scheme for rough diamonds. The General Assembly is scheduled to receive a report on the Kimberley Process certification scheme in early February 2003. As the General Assembly has debated this matter for the past two years, we believe that an early endorsement in the Security Council may pre-empt this debate.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dumisani S. **Kumalo**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of
South Africa to the United Nations

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